



2024

State of Missouri Recycling Report





From the Director

I am excited to present our annual report for fiscal year 2024.

In accordance with RSMo 34.031, the Office of Administration is submitting the annual report to summarize the recycling efforts across Missouri state government and highlight its accomplishments. State law directs State agencies to implement policies for recycling, waste reduction, and procurement of recycled content products. The Missouri State Recycling Program, administered by the Office of Administration, Division of General Services, is responsible for assisting State agencies in these areas. The State Recycling Program also works cooperatively with the Missouri Interagency Recycling Committee to facilitate recycling and waste reduction for State team members.



I am happy to report more than 2,100 State team members subscribe to our monthly communications and the average open rate for these emails is 55%. According to the GovDelivery platform, which is used to distribute our messaging, the median email open rate across all users within the platform is only 21%. This indicates we have a very engaged audience. State team members continue to reduce the amount of waste generated at State facilities and the related costs of waste disposal.

FY24 Impact Summary: Making Recycling Count

- **Environmental Impact:** We recycled **12.9 million pounds** of materials, reducing energy use equal to powering **3,042** homes for a year.
- **Sustainable Purchasing:** We invested **\$8.6 million** in products made from recycled material, supporting sustainability efforts.
- **Financial Benefits:** Our efforts generated **\$83,326** in revenue for the recycling fund and avoided **\$716,065** in waste disposal costs.

We appreciate the support of the Administration and the General Assembly in our recycling efforts.

Crystal Wessing

*Average landfill tipping fee for Missouri = \$110.68 / ton. Used to calculate the waste disposal cost avoided. (The Environmental Research & Education Foundation (2024) "Analysis of MSW Landfill Tipping Fees — 2023." Retrieved from www.erefndn.org)

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About the State Recycling Program



In 1989, the Missouri State Recycling Program (MSRP) was established when legislation added sections 34.031 and 34.032 to Chapter 34 of the Missouri Revised Statutes. The MSRP partners with State team members and agencies to facilitate fiscally and environmentally responsible strategies for reuse and recycling of State property.

- The MSRP is staffed by the recycling manager, recycling coordinator, and a part-time recycling technician. In addition, MSRP is supported by the Missouri Interagency Recycling Committee (MIRC), as well as a large number of team member volunteers.
- MIRC serves an important purpose by providing input and communicating with State team members. The recycling committee is composed of representatives from various State departments (executive, judicial, and legislative). The member list can be found on the [MSRP website](#).
- State team members are key to the success of the recycling program. Thanks to their efforts, thousands of pounds of material are recycled each day.

2024 Earth Day and 14th Annual Zero Waste Challenge



Uneaten food recovered during the Zero Waste Challenge.



Zero Waste Challenge volunteers educated fifth graders about food waste and best practices for recycling. Left to right: Lee Ann Blythe, Sylvia Bonner, Jacinda Thudium, Edward Lang, Rachel Ajayi, Caroline Coulter, Lana VanLoo.



Trashasaurus joined fifth graders from around the state at the Capitol in April, 2024 to celebrate Earth Day.

Recycling Champions



The MSRP annually recognizes State agencies and team members for their outstanding contributions in the areas of waste reduction and recycling.



Commissioner Ken Zellers, Amy Rowden, Cameron Gehlert, Deputy Commissioner Caroline Coulter



MOREuse Movers Jeff Cassmeyer, Mary Kay Holterman, Kerry Kroll, Dana Ferguson, Cameron Gehlert

2024 Recycling Champion: Amy Rowden

Amy Rowden, 30th Circuit manager of the Department of Social Services' Children's Division, leads by example in her dedication to a cleaner planet and a better future for sea turtles and the environment. Her passion for sustainability shines through in her everyday choices, like using reusable straws, bringing her own bags for groceries, and minimizing paper use by opting for digital formats whenever possible. Amy also has a personal recycling setup in her car for leftover food, avoiding single-use plastic and Styrofoam containers when dining out. She even fishes trash out of rivers and encourages her coworkers to be mindful of their environmental impact.

At the office, Amy inspires eco-friendly habits by setting up recycling bins, providing reusable water bottles, and even bringing washable dishes to team picnics. She'll gently remind anyone using disposable items to reconsider, always advocating for reduce, reuse, and recycle. Amy is the "Recycling Queen" of the 30th Circuit, tirelessly encouraging us all to take small steps for a big difference.

2024 Team Recycling Champion: MOREuse Movers

When the ITSD-DSS building was lost to a fire more than 2.5 years ago, a creative solution emerged to refurnish the new office location at West Truman Boulevard. By coming together as a team, Kerry Kroll and Dana Ferguson (Attorney General's Office), Greg Luebbering (Missouri Supreme Court), Terry Stratman (Department of Health & Senior Services), Randy Libbert (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education), and Mary Kay Holterman (ITSD-DSS) were able to secure an extensive list of used furniture through the MOREuse program, valued at over \$71,500. This collaboration saved the State of Missouri substantial costs and helped clear out storage spaces across agencies.

The contributions included 23 executive desks, seven credenzas, 40+ office chairs, conference tables, bookcases, shelving units, and more; all vital pieces to support ITSD-DSS's approximately 90 team members. Special thanks to Jeff Cassmeyer, App Dev Manager, who personally transported a large conference room table that was too big for the moving company. This teamwork exemplifies resourcefulness and the power of multi-agency collaboration.

State Agency Recycling



Pounds Recycled by Material*

 **7,208,289** lbs of metal

 **2,545,047** lbs of paper

 **1,783,960** lbs of tires

Recycled Products Purchased by State Agencies*

 **\$4,782,569** - metal

 **\$2,120,052** - paper products

 **\$464,412** - office supplies

Pounds Recycled by Department*



Department of Transportation
7,279,394 lbs



Department of Natural Resources
1,345,608 lbs



Department of Corrections
777,927 lbs

*Lists represent the top three in each respected category, not a complete list of stats.

FY24 Financial Stats

\$8,626,872

Total spent by State agencies on products made from recycled materials

\$370,107

Avoided cost of office supplies and equipment exchanged through MOREuse

\$716,065

Avoided cost of waste disposal due to recycling

State Agency Recycling (continued)



The environmental savings from recycling 12,939,383 pounds of various materials are demonstrated below. These savings were calculated using the Environmental Protection Agency's Waste Reduction Model (WARM). For additional information please visit epa.gov/warm.

Green House Gas Reductions Equivalent to...



Annual emissions from
4,803 passenger vehicles

..... OR



2,545,544 gallons of
gasoline not used

..... OR



942,594 cylinders of
propane for home
BBQs not used

Energy Savings Equivalent to...



Annual energy consumption
of **3,042** homes

..... OR



47,962 barrels of oil

..... OR



2,313,433 gallons of
gasoline*

*Gasoline energy savings from materials recycled is equivalent to 102% of annual State Fleet fuel consumption.

Agency Accomplishments



Conservation's St. Louis Regional Office

Over the past several years, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) St. Louis Regional Office has been building a recycling program to not only recycle the usual things like batteries and printer cartridges, but has also been adding unusual products to its toolbox of recycling solutions.

Greg Gibson with MDC has led the effort to make it simple and convenient to recycle vinyl/latex gloves, shoes, clothing, propane cylinders, coffee pods, and water filters from aquariums. Check out the table on the right to see how much MDC's St. Louis Regional Office has recycled over the past several years.

The MSRP applauds the efforts and commitment of the MDC's St. Louis Regional Office.



Bins for unique things such as textiles, coffee pods, and battery and light bulb recycling are placed around the MDC St. Louis Regional Office.

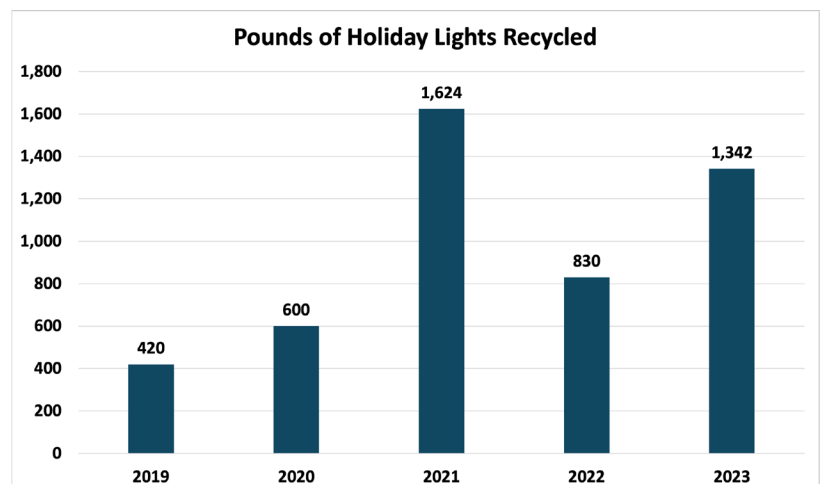
Pounds of Material Recycled

14	Aquarium water filters
114	Batteries
45	Ballasts
506	Clothing
51	Coffee Pods
22	Light Bulbs
64	Printer Cartridges
23	Propane Cylinders
249	Shoes
22	Vinyl/Latex Gloves

5th Annual Holiday Light Recycling Event

Fiscal year 2024 marked the fifth year of a coordinated holiday light collection effort by State agencies. The annual event was started in 2019 by the Department of Natural Resources' Hazardous Waste Program. Since 2019, more than two tons (4,816 pounds) have been collected, which has kept harmful waste such as mercury from invading the landfill.

Facilitated by the Department of Natural Resources and the MSRP, the collection allows for metals, plastic, and glass to be recovered as raw materials for manufacturing new products. The collection was held in participating buildings during the months of December and January.



Agency Accomplishments (continued)



State Public Health Lab Installs New Baler to Enhance Recycling Efforts

By partnering with the MSRP, the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) Health Lab has taken a significant step toward improving its recycling program with the installation of a new baler, which became operational on Oct. 28, 2024. This initiative aims to manage the high volume of cardboard generated on-site, helping the facility reduce waste and achieve cost avoidance. The baler was strategically placed after considering the Health Lab's large cardboard output, available space, and potential to significantly reduce waste management expenses.

The installation process and training for the on-site team were successfully completed with the assistance of DHSS team members Heather Moser and Ryan Bernard, along with members of the FMDC team. Their expertise ensured that staff were fully equipped to operate the baler efficiently and safely. The transition marks an important milestone, as baled cardboard holds significantly more value than loose cardboard. By compacting cardboard into dense, transport-ready bales, the Health Lab reduces hauling costs, maximizes storage efficiency, and increases the revenue generated from recycling efforts.



Ryan Bernard inspects the new cardboard baler.



Health Lab & FMDC staff filling the baler.

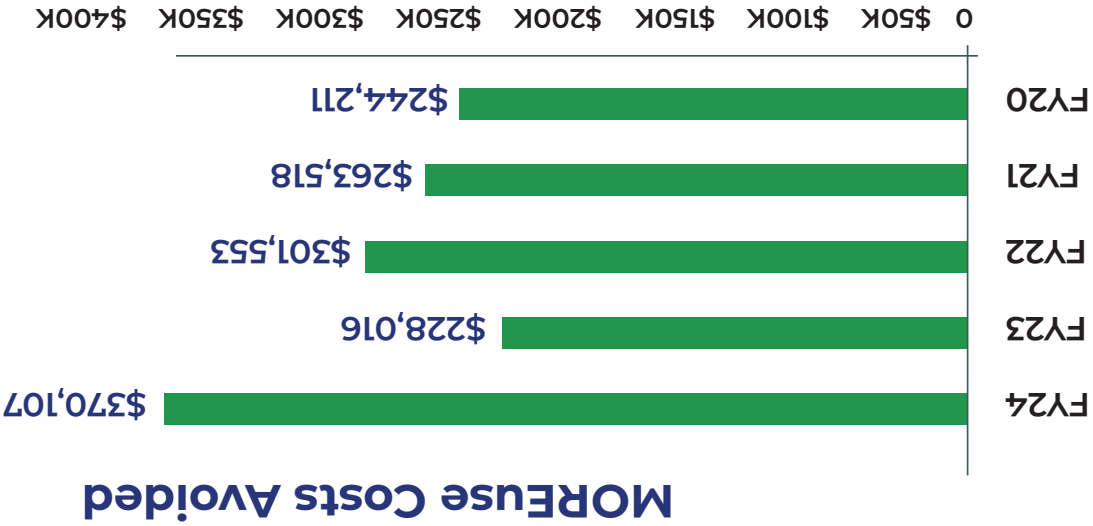
This collaborative effort not only supports the Health Lab's operational efficiency but also aligns with the MSRP's broader sustainability goals. By integrating the baler into its daily operations, the Health Lab sets a precedent for environmentally responsible practices within state facilities. This investment showcases MSRP's commitment to cost-effective waste management and long-term environmental stewardship.

The cardboard baler will also be available to agencies that locate lab operations at the new One Lab, which is currently under construction adjacent to the State Public Health Lab and expected to open in 2026. Agencies anticipated to move in to the One Lab include Agriculture, Conservation, Natural Resources, and Public Safety.

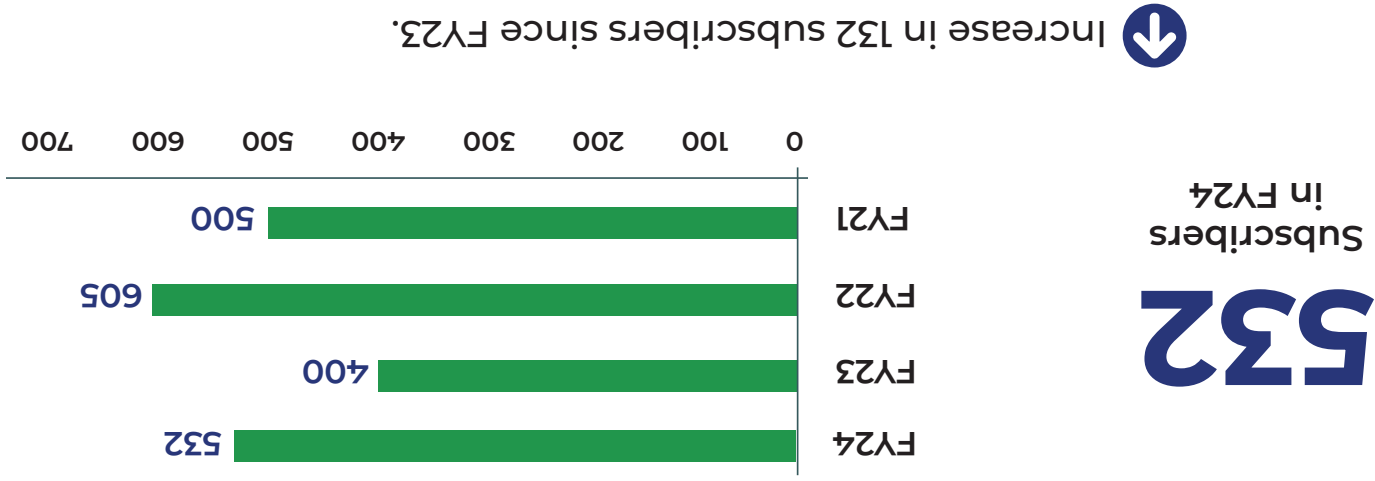
Reduction and Reuse

MOREuse Celebrates 5th Anniversary of Promoting a Culture of Reuse

Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) marked the fifth year MOREuse — a web-based application that facilitates the reuse and recycling of State property — has been in operation. Over the past five years State agencies have realized more than \$1.4 million in costs avoided by using the MOREuse app. More than 500 State team members were registered to use MOREuse in FY24. MOREuse is an app that can be used on a computer or mobile device to advertise items available to other State agencies or to search for items an agency may need. Property exchanged (at no cost) includes anything from paper clips and three-ring binders to office chairs. For FY24, State agencies avoided spending an estimated \$370,107 by acquiring property through the MOREuse system instead of purchasing new property.



Active MOREuse Subscribers



Reduction and Reuse (continued)



The MOREuse community is made up of **givers** (agencies with unneeded property) and **takers** (agencies that need the property). Property posted or exchanged on MOREuse is for state agency use only.

Data appearing in the charts below may also be viewed in Tableau. For example, data for all agencies that used MOREuse may be viewed. Click [here](#) to have an interactive experience with the data.*

Top Three Giver Agencies



Office of
Administration
\$183,533



Department of
Corrections
\$46,998



House of
Representatives
\$46,494

Top Three Taker Agencies



Department of
Corrections
\$259,570



Office of
Administration
\$48,971



Department
of Revenue
\$30,745

*Giver and taker values may not match in any year because items are valued differently. Giver value is based on the estimated replacement cost, while taker value reflects the actual condition and usefulness of the items received. Differences can also occur due to the timing of when items are listed, claimed, and recorded. All values are reported for the fiscal year, which runs from July 1 to June 30.

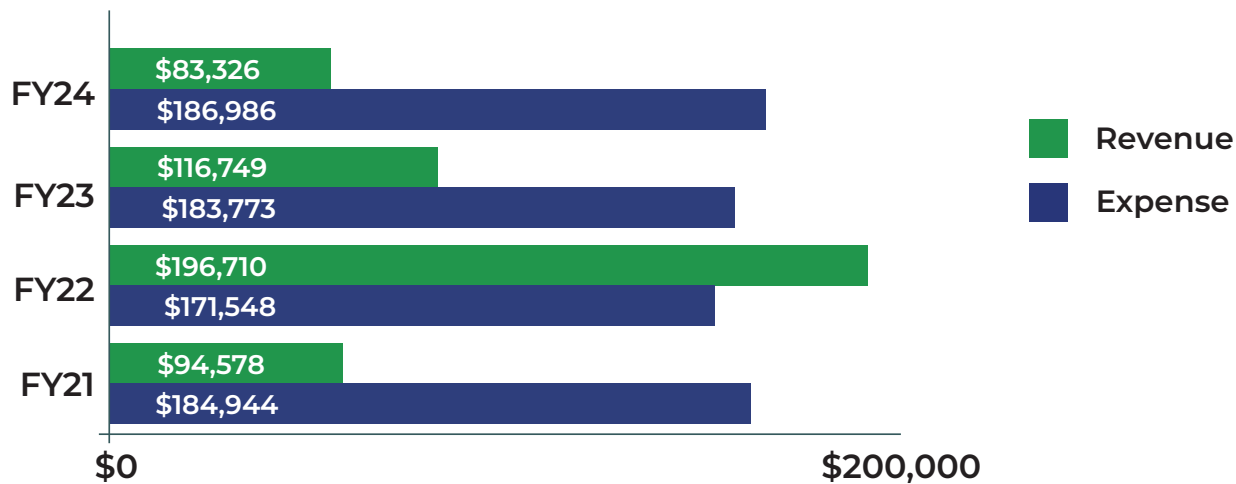
State Recycling Fund



Missouri's State Recycling Fund was established by RSMo 34.032, which states, "proceeds from the sale of recycled materials may be used to offset costs of the recycling program." Additionally, all funds deposited into the State Recycling Fund are dedicated to recycling-related expenses for State government.

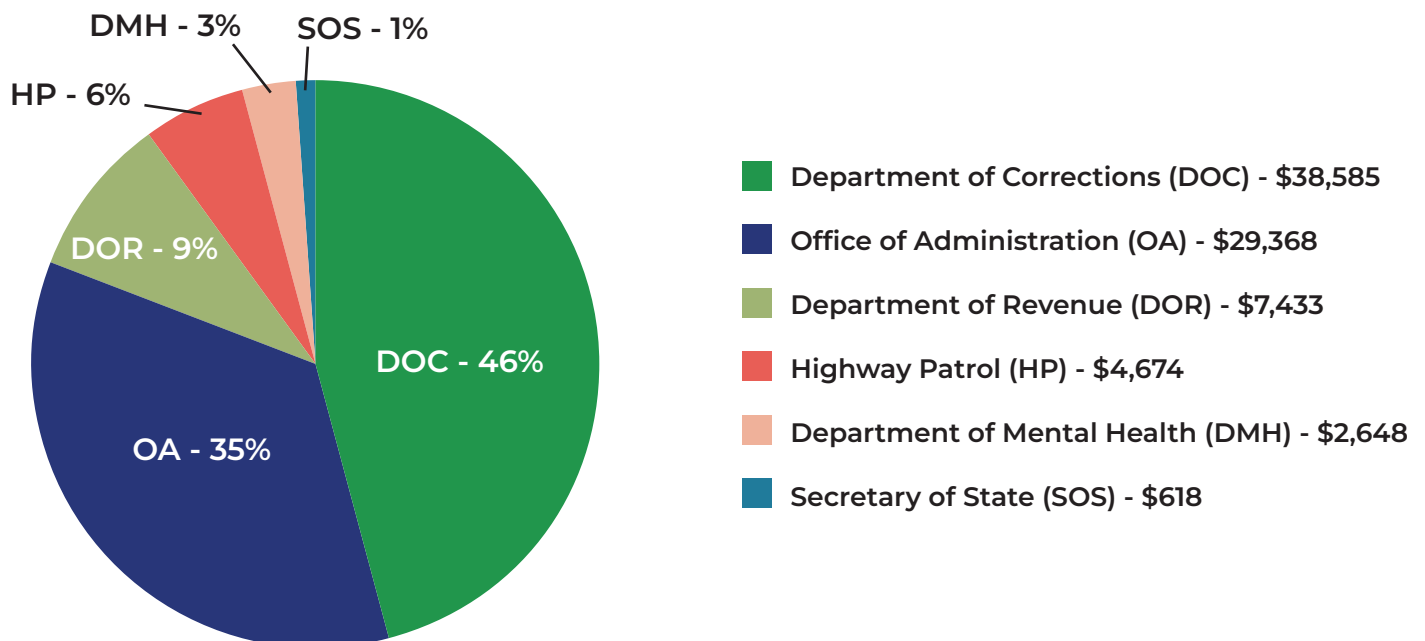
The MSRP relies on numerous partnerships with State agencies (see Sources of Revenue chart). These partnerships are key to the program's success. Rather than each agency developing its own recycling program, each of these inter-agency partnerships allows for resources to be pooled for more robust recycling systems to be developed. All State agencies actively recycle at some level.

Missouri State Recycling Program Financial Summary*



*As a self-sustaining program, MSRP has been impacted by fluctuating commodity markets in recent years. To ensure financial sustainability, MSRP has implemented strategies for significantly reducing administrative cost and identifying opportunities for growing revenue.

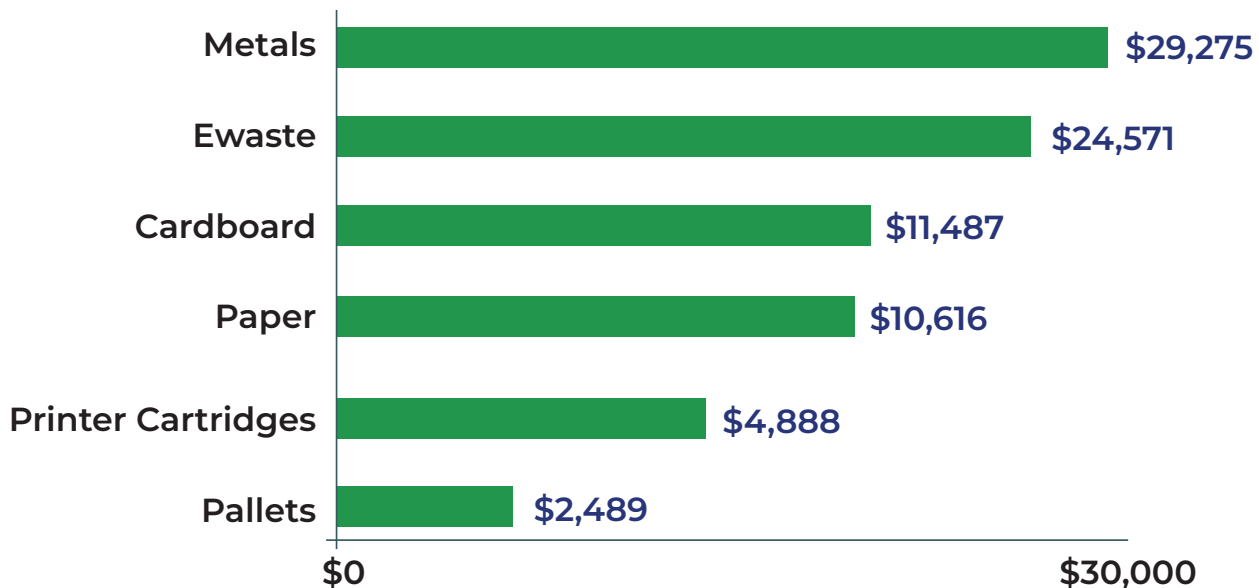
Sources of Revenue for FY24



State Recycling Fund (continued)



Revenues Generated by Material



Contributions to the Heating Assistance Program (Utilicare)

Excess revenues from the sale of recyclable materials are transferred to the Heating Assistance Program (Utilicare) managed by the Missouri Department of Social Services pursuant to RSMo 34.032. Utilicare provides financial assistance to low-income Missourians for heating their homes during winter months.



As a result of state team member recycling efforts, a \$30,000 contribution was made in FY24 which will help approximately 150 Missouri households pay energy bills.

Total MSRP Contributions

Since 2010:

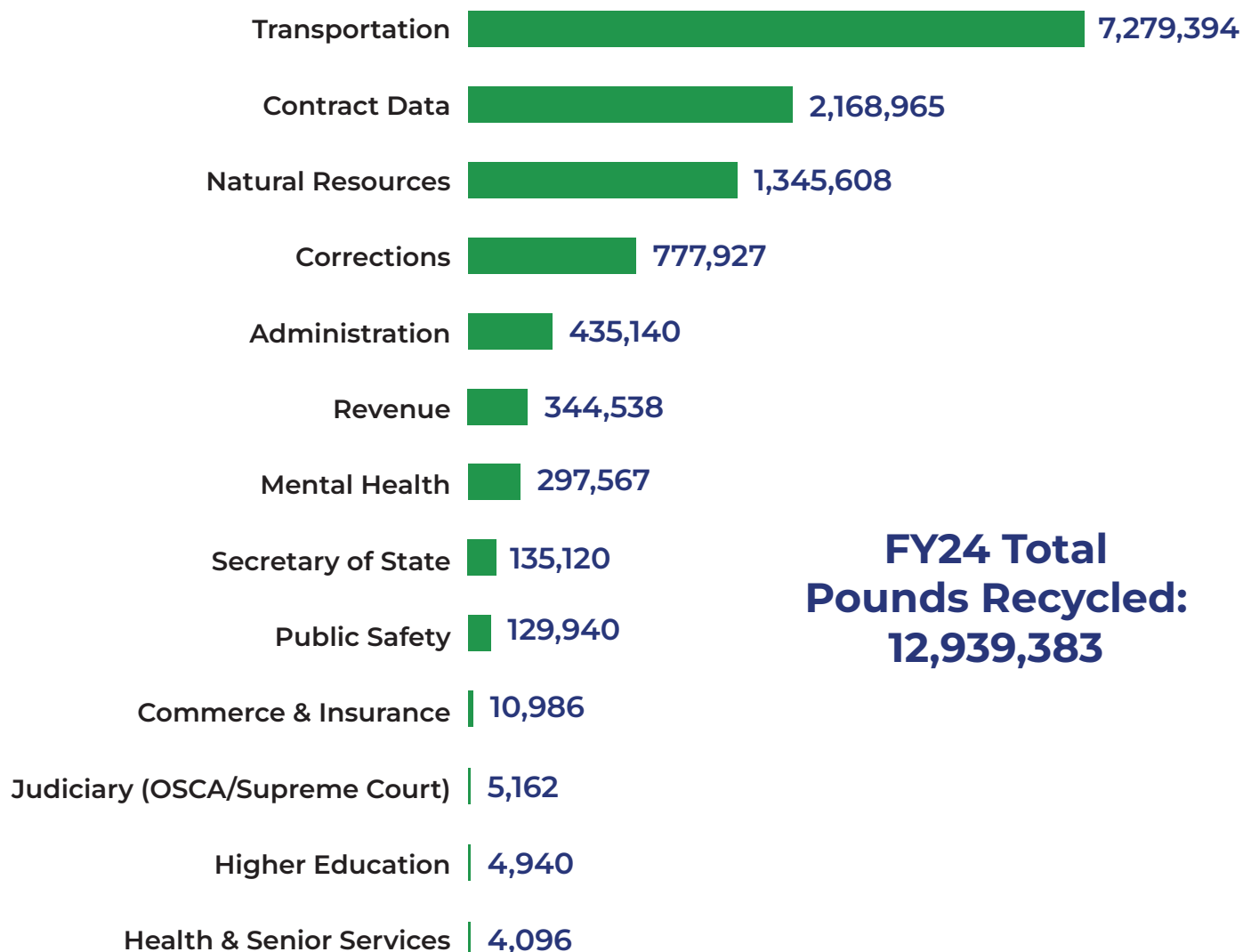
\$430,000

Total Pounds Recycled by Agency



The data appearing in the chart below may also be viewed in Tableau through the MSRP website. Tableau provides a way to interact with the recycling data — including “gallons” and “number of items” recycled data. For example, more detailed information about different types of materials recycled by each agency can be viewed. Click [here](#) to have an interactive experience with the data.

FY24 Pounds Recycled by Agency

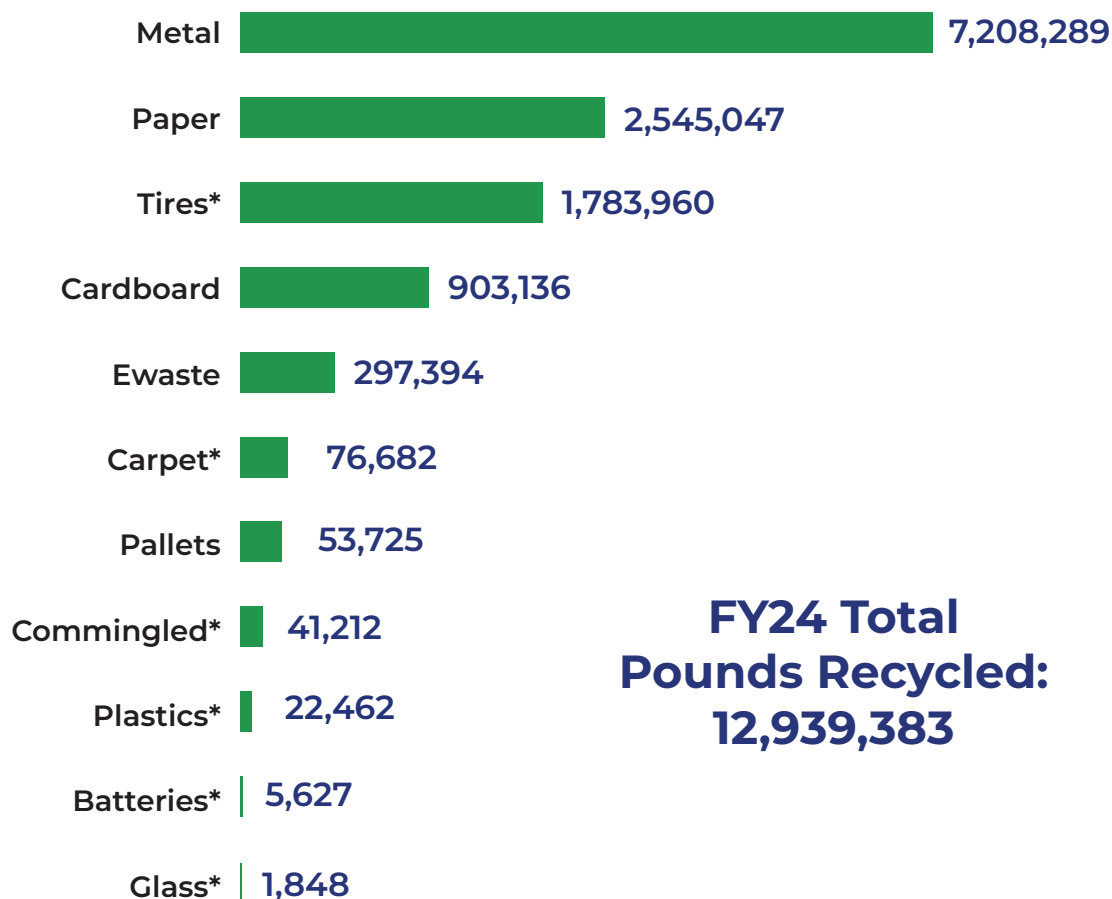


Agencies that utilized a recycling contract, but do not appear in this table, include: **Agriculture, Economic Development, Elementary and Secondary Education, Conservation, Labor & Industrial Relations, Social Services, Environmental Improvement Energy Resources Authority, Lottery, Tax Commission, MCHCP, MOSERS, Governor's Office, Lt. Governor's Office, Auditor, Attorney General, Treasurer, House of Representatives, and Senate.** Amounts of materials recycled by these agencies are included in the total for “Contract Data”.

Total Pounds Recycled by Material

The data appearing in the chart below may also be viewed in Tableau. Tableau provides a way to interact with the recycling data — including “gallons” and “number of items” recycled data. Click [here](#) to have an interactive experience with the data.

FY24 Pounds Recycled by Material



*The MSRP does not receive revenue through these materials.

MSRP 2025 Goals



Improve Website Accessibility

Redesign the program's website to make it more accessible and a better resource for State team members. The updated site will include clear instructions, training tools, and helpful materials to support recycling and waste reduction at State facilities.



Visit State Buildings for On-Site Support

In partnership with Facilities Management, Design and Construction (FMDC), conduct site visits to several State buildings to offer hands-on help, share resources, and recommend ways to improve recycling and waste management. These visits will focus on finding opportunities for cost avoidance and making recycling more efficient.



Increase Recycling Efforts

Expand the types of materials collected at State facilities, focusing on items like cardboard, electronics, and plastics. Efforts will also aim to prevent contamination and make recycling processes more effective.



Strengthen Leadership and Team Involvement

Motivate State departments to lead the way in sustainability by adopting creative recycling strategies and sharing their successes. Additionally, work to get MIRC members more involved in driving improvements and promoting the program's goals.



Transform the Annual Report

Redesign the annual report to better communicate the program's impact by including clear and compelling data, engaging graphics, and visuals, and highlighting achievements through impactful storytelling and metrics. This transformation will help demonstrate the program's success and inspire further action.

Recycling Resources



Missouri State Recycling Program

The Missouri State Recycling Program (Office of Administration, Division of General Services) partners with State employees and agencies to facilitate fiscally and environmentally responsible strategies for reuse and recycling of State property.



recycling@oa.mo.gov



573-751-3384



oa.mo.gov/general-services/missouri-state-recycling-program



301 W. High Street, P.O. Box 809 | Jefferson City, MO 65102-0809

State Recycling Contracts



Local Contracts:

genserv.oa.mo.gov/state-recycling-program/recycling-services-contracts



Statewide Contracts:

genserv.oa.mo.gov/state-recycling-program/statewide-recycling-services

MOREuse



genserv.oa.mo.gov/state-recycling-program/moreuse

Missouri Recycling Association

The Missouri Recycling Association (MORA) is a statewide organization advocating for recycling in the state. MORA connects people from public and private organizations, offers industry insights, and strives to influence policy to support Missouri's economy and businesses by extracting the highest and best use of materials at end of life.



573-491-4255



mora.org

Missouri Vocational Enterprises (MVE)

The Department of Corrections' vocational training program offers products and services that meet "buy recycled" criteria, including: cardboard boxes, metal products, toilet paper, envelopes, picnic tables, re-manufactured printer cartridges, and office panel / furniture refurbishing. MVE products and services are only available to state agencies and other tax-supported entities.



800-392-8486 or 573-751-6663



doc.mo.gov/mve